## CCC News Release

California Conservation Corps

CCC Inland Empire Recruitment Office 3102 East Highland Ave., Patton, CA 92369 (909) 862-0767 www.ccc.ca.gov

Contact: Zoraya Van Buren (909) 862-0767 April 23, 2005

## OPENINGS NOW FOR CCC INLAND EMPIRE FIRE CREW

Want to be a firefighter? Now's your chance!

With fire season fast approaching, the California Conservation Corps is hiring local young men and women for its Inland Empire fire crew.

The crew of 25 corpsmembers will report each day to the CCC's center in San Bernardino, on the grounds of Patton State Hospital. They'll receive training from the U.S. Forest Service and be certified for dispatch to California forest fires this summer.

The CCC will accept applications until May 11 for the fire crew; training will begin May 13. The Inland Empire Center is the focus for CCC firefighting efforts in Southern California.

"For young people interested in firefighting careers, this crew is the best stepping-stone. Give us a call and you can be in the Corps and on the crew in a matter of days," said CCC Director Will Semmes.

Semmes said that several corpsmembers on last year's crew were hired into U.S. Forest Service positions thanks to their CCC experience.

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 to join the Corps. After a short orientation, they'll have two weeks of U.S. Forest Service instruction, followed -more-

by a physical agility test.

The California Conservation Corps is a workforce development program hiring young people for a year of service to the state. Corpsmembers focus on environmental conservation work and emergency services. For details on joining the Inland Empire fire crew, or the CCC in general, contact Zoraya Van Buren at (909) 867-0767 or visit the Corps' Web site: www.ccc.ca.gov.

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